

WILL WIPE OUT A GANG OF THIEVES.

Foot of Little Street, Long the Haunt of River Pirates, to Be Closed.

Federal Authorities Obligated to Ask It as a Protection to the Navy Yard.

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY NOT SAFE.

Buildings Looted, Sailors Made Drunk and Robbed, Bad Whiskey Peddled and Valuables Taken from Corpses Floating in East River.

A gang of river thieves, one of the worst of the many which have infested the water front of the metropolis, will be broken up when the foot of Little street, in Brooklyn, is closed and made part of the Navy Yard. Mayor Wurstler and City Work Commissioner Willis have agreed with the officials of the Navy Department that the street from the East River to Marshall street, a distance of fifty feet, shall be closed and turned over to the Navy Yard authorities. It is said that it is necessary to complete the transfer for the Legislature to cede jurisdiction to the United States.

The Federal Government has promised, in return for this concession, to have the north-easterly end of the cob dock at the Navy Yard cut off and the channel leading into the Wallabout Market straightened and dredged at its expense.

The foot of Little street has long been the seat of operations for a gang which has terrorized the boatmen along the water front and kept the Navy Yard authorities in a constant state of apprehension of serious loss.

Little street is one of the narrow, dirty streets in the lower Fifth Ward. It is only five blocks long, extending from the river to Evans street. The intersecting streets are also narrow and short, and a stranger is sure to lose his way if he attempts to penetrate into this section of the city.

The foot of the street is unlighted at night and ends abruptly on the sea wall. There is no dock and no railing or guard chain to keep one from falling overboard. On one side is the great, high wall surrounding the Navy Yard, on the other a dilapidated and untenanted building.

The neighborhood is not considered a good one. The young toughs for blocks around gather there at night, send out for buckets of beer and carouse to their hearts' content. A policeman may occasionally be seen in the neighborhood in the day time, but never at night.

THIS PLACE HAS A BAD NAME.

The gang holds forth in the neighboring saloons in York street and Hudson avenue in the daytime and in bad weather. At all other times, they may be found in or about the foot of this deserted street.

The officers of the Navy Yard say that the Little street gang, as it is known, would stop at nothing to secure plunder. Instances by the score are related of how sailors have been made drunk and then robbed, either within the shadow of the Navy Yard gate or further down in dark Little street.

Members of the gang seem to congregate at the particular prey, property belonging to the Government, legitimate plunder. Men have been assaulted and robbed and a man lying wounded on the street or put to bed in one of the neighboring sailors' boarding houses. It is not improbable that murder has been done in this dark street, or that drunken men have been pushed overboard after having been robbed.

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There would usually be two men to a boat, and both would keep their eyes open. If any piece of driftwood came along which was worth picking up it would be taken in tow. The small boats would drift in as close as possible to the side of any wharf lying along the Navy Yard. Then trade in illicit whiskey, manufactured no doubt in some basement in this same section of the city, would be opened up with the sailors.

PREDICING ILLICIT WHISKY.

Sailors in the navy know well of the business done by the gang, and the thirsty men, restricted to their ship for bad conduct ashore, watch for a chance to open up communication with their small boats.

When the vigilance of the ship's officers relaxed for a moment Jack will slip a note to a small boat, and in a few minutes the line overboard. It is like fishing, undisturbed by the officers it is sure to bring something. The end of the line is placed in the hands of the members of the gang who take out the coin and the flask of whiskey to the end of the string, drink it overboard and then the line is cast. A watch is kept by the gang, who waits his opportunity, raises his line, and proceeds to fill up what is particularly bad whiskey.

Sometimes, in spite of the utmost vigilance, twenty or thirty of the men will get liquor from the small boats. They are then taken to the Navy Yard and put in the ship's holding pen. They invariably wind up in the ship's holding pen. They are then taken to the Navy Yard and put in the ship's holding pen. They are then taken to the Navy Yard and put in the ship's holding pen.

Members of the Little street gang climbed over the Navy Yard wall about two years ago, and cutting a hole in the roof of one of the warehouse buildings, near the coal dock, entered it and carried away thousands of pounds of white lead and other valuables stored there.

The warehouse buildings extend back to the boundary of the Navy Yard. They are high at that point, being specially designed to keep out just such marauders. The thieves, however, found their way to the top of the buildings and select a spot to cut through the roof.

There were armed sentries patrolling up and down in front of the warehouse, but they neither saw nor heard anything of the thieves, and the robbery was not discovered until the next day.

timated by the gang to be worth \$400 each to them.

PROTECTION FOR THE SAILORS.

So many sailors were robbed outside the gate that the Navy Yard officials devised a scheme to protect the sailors. After they were paid off on the receiving ship they were taken to the foot of Little street and brought to this city. They would be landed at some pier on the North or East River where they would have a chance to escape from the sharks.

Fewer sailors have been paid off here in late years, but the industry of robbing them has still been considerable. There are one. Sailors are "good losers," and rarely complain to the police.

When Little street is included in the Government reservation a high wall will be built across it at Marshall street, and all access to the river at that point cut off. The Navy Yard officials are sure that the closing of the street and the removal of the main gate of the Navy Yard to Sands street will break up the gang and prove a great blessing.

ALLISON BOOM LAUNCHED.

It is Young and Feeble Yet, but its Promoter Believes That It Will Gain Strength Rapidly.

An Allison boom has been launched in Brooklyn. It is small and modest. The men back of it, however, say it may be likened to the little acorn which became a sturdy oak.

The movement in favor of Iowa's popular statesman was started Saturday night at the home of Lewis Hilleken, No. 693 Greene avenue. Mr. Hilleken is young, handsome, and fairly bubbles over with enthusiasm. He came to the conclusion Thursday last that the politicians had been managing affairs long enough.

"Politics," said he, "has been making way for the people."

Fortwith he sat down and invited friends of Senator Allison to rally at his house Saturday night and organize an Allison club. The outpouring was not tremendous, however. A three neat, spruce young man rallied around the chandelier in Mr. Hilleken's parlor and started in to make history.

Mr. Hilleken called the assemblage to order and explained that he had one hundred Allison buttons. He gave one to each of his guests and fastened one on his own coat. The Allisonites and the obstreperous Harrison man then marched to the dining room and enjoyed a delightful collation.

The club will meet again as soon as Mr. Hilleken has distributed enough buttons to insure a larger gathering.

NOVEL BICYCLE EVENTS.

Races of a Unique Order Witnessed by a Large Audience at the Old Armory in Brooklyn.

Brooklyn society people turned out in large numbers on Saturday night to witness the races of the Cycle Club, which were held in the old armory on Hanson place. The armory was handsomely decorated with flags of different nations, while hundreds of electric lights made the place as bright as day.

About sixty men and women took part in the middle ride, which was led by Miss Gwendolyn Blinn and Mr. George K. Jarvis. They occupied the floor for about twenty minutes, when the first race of the night took place. This was the coasting race, and had five starters. It was won by Andy Peters, with a coast of 383 feet, with James P. Fuller, the ex-chairman of the Republican County Committee, second with a coast of 328 feet.

The next event on the evening's programme was the bottle race, which was a highly amusing affair. The riders, numbered ten of the oldest members of the club, had to wind their way through numerous wooden bottles. Hardly a comment, and the ring before the race came to earth. The race was finally won by George K. Jarvis. Time—2:20. Graham Hilday, who had a coast of 324 seconds beat the winner.

The last event was the combination race. In this there were five entries, and each rider had to make the circuit of the track six times on his wheel, and after each lap dismount and run 100 yards. This race was won by George K. Jarvis, who finished in the order named, with only a wheel's difference between them.

WORKED IN A GOLD MINE.

Linberg Thought So and Sold the Metal, but It Belonged to His Employer and He Was Arrested.

The Brooklyn Watch Case Company has been robbed systematically for the past five months. During that time something like \$1,000 worth of gold dust, fillings and polish has disappeared from the works at 454 Third street.

Albert Linberg, twenty-five years old, of No. 454 Third street, and his brother, George Linberg, aged thirty-one years, of No. 342 Second street, were arrested Saturday night for complicity in the crime. Superintendent Louis Condit was the complainant.

The company employs a large number of men, and the gold dust is sold to them by the ounce. Every pennyweight of gold which enters or leaves the factory is weighed and recorded.

In making the cases and polishing them a great deal of gold fillings and dust drop from the workers' hands. They are carefully swept up with the dust and melted again. It was noticed lately that the quantity was not as great as formerly, and a close watch was set on the employees.

Suspicion finally fell on Albert Linberg, who was employed in the polishing room. Saturday evening he was caught in his suspiciously in his coat pockets. Mr. Condit notified Captain Campbell, and he sent a patrol of the watchmen to the factory, who arrested Linberg.

When brought to the Bergen Street Station, Linberg was found to be in possession of a muggy substance, was found in his pocket. Inspection showed that it was mixed with gold dust. Mr. Condit said he had been working on it for some time.

The prisoner finally admitted that he had been working on the gold dust, and was taken to the police station. He was held in the police station for some time, and then was taken to the police station. He was held in the police station for some time, and then was taken to the police station.

Died While Going to Church.

Mrs. Elizabeth Larsen, fifty years old, of No. 416 Smith street, Brooklyn, started for church yesterday afternoon. She became ill on the way, and was taken to the police station. She was held in the police station for some time, and then was taken to the police station.

Smashed a Window in Disgrace.

Timothy McGarry, a hatter, of Newark, N. J., with two other men, entered August Reese's grocery store, at No. 607 Park avenue, Williamsburg, yesterday morning, and demanded a payment for a drink. When the two men reached the street Mr. McGarry drew a knife and stabbed Reese in the left breast and arm. He then ran away and is still at liberty. An ambulance surgeon dressed the wounds.

MORTON'S BOOM WILL GO WEST ON WHEELS.

Aldermen Clark Organizes a Cycle Legion in the Interest of the Governor.

Kings County Delegates and Other Boomers Will Leave Brooklyn on June 1, on Bicycles.

WILL MEET OTHERS ON THE ROAD.

Members of the Legion Are Enthusiastic Over the Proposed Trip and Will Go Into Training—Do Not Fear McKinley Tacks.

It is indeed astounding to contemplate the varied and unlimited purposes the average bicycle can be made to serve besides that of affording mere recreation and healthful exercise, for which it was obviously invented. Certain business concerns now employ "bikes" to advertise and boom their wares in place of less economical methods.

Joseph R. Clark.

The Brooklyn Alderman who has organized the "Morton Cycle Legion," which will go to St. Louis on wheels in the interest of the Governor's Presidential boom. A uniform will be adopted, and a goodly army on wheels will go with him.

Their advantage over the horse in warfare, especially where certain tactics are to be pursued, has been acknowledged by military experts, and they are now in use in most civilized governments for this purpose almost exclusively. They have succeeded the horse in our mail and police service in many instances; peddlers, too, find it more convenient and cheaper to straddle a bicycle and dispose of their merchandise than lug a much more expensive horse and wagon outfit around the country.

But few—even those with the most vivid and versatile minds—it is quite safe to say, would think of its being used as a most ingenious and clever means for booming the candidacy of a probable Presidential candidate. This idea is the sort of idea of Alderman Joseph R. Clark, a Kings County delegate to the National Republican Convention, and a red-hot, deep-dyed Morton man. It is Alderman Clark's bright mind that has been first to hit upon this brilliant idea and unique "booming device," and ample warning will be given to McKinleyites, Reddites and other "toss," with Presidential bees in their head pieces, not to copy the name.

However, like all great men who think out bright things and ideas, Alderman Clark is extremely modest and bashful in assuming the responsibility for this latest of novel schemes, which the bicycle makes possible, to be successfully worked out. While he admits that he is the originator of it, he, however, adds that Assemblyman Brennan has had much to do with the scheme, and that he is the originator of it.

However that may be, neither disputes the other's claims to priority, so it is best to leave it to the public to decide. The "booming scheme" and what connection the bicycle has with it, Alderman Clark explains it.

He is now organizing a club among the Kings County delegates to the National Republican Convention, and among those who will attend anyway. The club will be known as the "Morton Cycle Legion." Those who at the present time are not acquainted with the difference art of propelling a "bike" are expected to learn in time to join the procession before it departs for St. Louis.

The entire journey will be made on the wheel, and, of course, the members of this odd cycling organization are requested to train for the drastic work that will be asked of them to perform the Bedford Avenue race. A late hour and over-indulgence in the amber fluid is prohibited.

Good-bye to the boom, a good man along the advantage and benefits it offers are these: a pleasant time, good, healthful exercise and cheap transportation. That is the whole of the "Morton Cycling Legion's" object.

Boy Accused of Theft.

Thomas Moloney, eleven years old, whose parents live at No. 192 North Seventh street, Williamsburg, was arrested yesterday in the Lee Avenue Police Court on complaint of Mrs. Emma Razzak, who conducts a small candy and cigar store at No. 98 North Eighth street. She charged the boy with stealing seventy-five cents from the money drawer. At the time of the theft, Mrs. Razzak was in a room back of the store, when she heard a noise and saw the boy running out. Mrs. Razzak pursued him and about a "police" as she ran. Her cries attracted a policeman attached to the Bedford Avenue Station, who arrested the boy. The case was adjourned until to-day.

Thrown from His Wagon.

Edward Banard, a driver of an ice-cream wagon, was severely cut and bruised yesterday by being thrown from his wagon at Reed and Putnam avenues. Williamsburg, the horse having run away. Ambulance surgeon Keegan, of the St. Catherine's Hospital, dressed Banard's injuries, and he was taken to his home, No. 309 Jefferson avenue. The horse was stopped before any damage had been done to the vehicle.

John Ratchford Stabbed.

John Ratchford, a plumber, twenty years old, of No. 30 South Fifth street, Williamsburg, and James McKinley, a Pole, got into a quarrel at midnight Saturday in Bennett Kahn's saloon, at No. 231 Kent avenue, and a payment for a drink. When the two men reached the street Mr. McKinley drew a knife and stabbed Ratchford in the left breast and arm. He then ran away and is still at liberty. An ambulance surgeon dressed Ratchford's wounds.

Disappeared with Union Funds.

Charles A. Meyer, thirty-two years old, of No. 144 Lewis avenue, Brooklyn, was arraigned in the Centre Street Police Court yesterday, charged with absconding with the funds of the local union No. 112 of the Tin and Sheet Iron International Association. Meyer was treasurer of the union, and had been collecting the dues for the season. He was charged with having stolen \$43 and disappeared. He was arraigned on a \$1,000 bail for examination.

Burglar Takes Watch and Spoons.

A burglar broke into John C. Sherer's residence, No. 809 Washington avenue, Brooklyn, Saturday, while the family were out. The burglar took a gold watch and a large collection of silver spoons which he had purchased in various American cities and summer resorts were stolen. He was arraigned on a \$1,000 bail for examination.

Blow from a Stone Hurlled by a Powerful Hand Renders His Right Arm Useless.

Nearly Beaten Into Insensibility Before a Brother Officer Reaches the Scene and Assists in Subduing the Rough and His Friends.

Policeman Meehan, of the Bedford Avenue Station, narrowly escaped being murdered at 1 o'clock yesterday morning. The street was lonely and very quiet. Meehan heard as he turned the corner of Union avenue from North Fourth street the sound of unsteady footsteps. He drew back into the shadow of the corner house and listened.

The footsteps grew louder, and finally James Murphy staggered into the glare of the electric light. Murphy is a burly rough who lives at No. 11 Frost street. He was very drunk and Meehan saw that he had something in his right hand. At the same instant the glint of light on the policeman's shirt caught Meehan's glance, and he stopped and mumbled out some incoherent abuse.

"Get home out of here!" said Meehan. The remark infuriated Murphy, who raised his right hand threateningly. The policeman saw that it clutched a big cobbler's stone.

MANE AND BRUISED BY ROLLEY CARS.

Chapter of Accidents in Which the Victims Have Been Seriously Injured.

Brooklyn Cars Are Still Being Run with Ruthless Disregard of Speed Regulations.

AMBULANCES IN CONSTANT DEMAND.

One Car Run at Night with the Headlight Attached to the Rear and the Gong Was Not Sounded—Some of the Recent Casualties.

The trolley railroad companies are running their cars, without regard to the speed ordinance, and no one interferes with them. The result is that accidents occur day and night. Cars are run along Bergen street, Fulton street and Fifth avenue at a fast and furious rate.

Louis F. Hein, forty-two years old, of No. 166 President street, went for a drive through Prospect Park yesterday afternoon. He took with him his two little daughters, Anna, ten years old, and Alma, five years old.

Hein was returning to his home by way of Third street, and had just reached Fifth avenue, when he saw trolley car No. 40, of the Nassau Company, rushing down Fifth avenue. He tried to get out of the way, but was unable to clear the track in time.

The car struck the carriage, overturning it, and throwing all its occupants into the street. Hein struck on his head, which was badly cut. His legs were pinned beneath the wagon and badly bruised. Little Anna's arms were cut and bruised and her wrist was sprained. The younger child, Alma, was bruised about the body.

An ambulance was summoned from the Trench Hospital and the injured persons removed thither. Afterward they were taken to their home in the ambulance.

One of the Bergen street cars whirled along that thoroughfare Saturday night with the headlight on the rear dashboard and the gong silent. Della Stephenson, sixteen years old, of No. 108A Ulster avenue, who was crossing the street near her home, was knocked down. Her head struck the pavement, but the fender saved her from being crushed. Her scalp was cut and her body bruised. An ambulance surgeon from St. Mary's Hospital dressed Miss Stephenson's wounds and took her home.

William Helmske, a boy, of No. 221 Mulder street, was run down by car No. 4130, of the Meeker avenue line, yesterday and badly cut about the head.

Car No. 125, of the Fulton street line, ran into a newspaper wagon owned by Charles Hines & Son, of No. 139 Mott street, New York, at Saratoga avenue and Fulton street, early yesterday morning. The wagon was wrecked and the papers scattered over the street. The driver escaped without injury.

No arrests were made.

Dr. E. F. Lindridge, of Washington Park, has not yet recovered from the effects of the trolley accident which occurred to him while he was going to see a patient three weeks ago. His carriage was struck by a trolley car and the horses have not yet recovered.

MILK INSTEAD OF COAL.

The Straus Yards for the Latter Close and Depots for the Former Open.

The coalyards maintained by Mr. Nathan Straus have just been closed at the end of the fourth season of this practical charity. That they are still appreciated by persons whose means compel them to buy their coal by the sententious at a time, is shown by the fact that more than 14,000,000 pounds were distributed in this way at the rate of thirty pounds for five cents.

In addition to this large quantity was given away to the needy on gratuitous orders, distributed by Mr. Straus by the managers of the recognized charitable agencies.

On the first of May the branch depots for the distribution of sterilized milk will be opened for the fourth season. The main depot, at No. 151 Avenue C, has been in operation all winter, and an average of 1,000,000 bottles of sterilized milk a day has been distributed from there at the nominal price of one cent a bottle, or on gratuitous orders.

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Injured by a Falling Brick.

Frederick Grote, eight years old, left his home, No. 128 Rochester avenue, Brooklyn, Saturday afternoon, and played up the street on the sidewalk. While running past a house at Rochester avenue and Dean street he was struck on the head with a brick and fell senseless to the ground. Ambulance surgeon Keegan, of St. Mary's Hospital, found that the lad had escaped with a serious wound, which was dressed and the injured boy removed to his home. It is believed that the brick dropped from a chimney of the house.

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The footsteps grew louder, and finally James Murphy staggered into the glare of the electric light. Murphy is a burly rough who lives at No. 11 Frost street. He was very drunk and Meehan saw that he had something in his right hand. At the same instant the glint of light on the policeman's shirt caught Meehan's glance, and he stopped and mumbled out some incoherent abuse.

CHANGES IN THE ELECTION LAWS.

The Brooklyn Board of Elections Has a Bill Which Mr. Raines Approves.

It Means the Abolishment of "Personal Identification" and Simplifies Voting.

IT WILL REPEAL ALL OLD LAWS.

The Aim is to Make the Voting and the Counting of Votes Simpler and Quicker—Indications That It Will Pass the Legislature.

"Several important changes in the existing election laws are embodied in a bill introduced by Senator Raines, now before the Senate, which was suggested, in the main, by the Brooklyn Board of Elections. Commissioners Erregger, Moulton and Blair and Chief Clerk Van Dusen have made several trips to Albany lately, and the bill now in the Senate is the result of a number of consultations they have held with Mr. Raines.

The main features to be changed are the time the polls are to be opened, the abolishment of the "personal identification" system of registration, and the simplification of the voting and the canvassing.

The number of officials in each election district will be reduced from twelve to eight, and the duty of registering placed upon the inspectors of election. The "oral count," which was the cause of so much delay in districts either heavily Democratic or heavily Republican is also abolished.

A journal reporter called at the Brooklyn Board of Elections, No. 19 Smith street, yesterday and saw Commissioners Erregger and Moulton, who explained what the changes meant. The Commissioners said: "The general feature is to make the law uniform throughout the State and to repeal all old laws, extending back as far as 1842, some wholly and some in sections. It is practically a substitute for all laws in existence in the State.

"Our aim is to make the voting and the counting of the votes simpler and quicker. The most important change to the voter has been the simplification of the method of voting and to the canvasser of canvassing. According to the change, if the person wishes to vote a straight ticket he makes a cross in the circle at the head of the column; if he wants to divide his vote among several parties he omits the cross in the circle at the top and puts a cross opposite the name of the candidate. Last year the law allowed them to do either way. This method simplified by confining the voting to two ways. This is by far the most important amendment proposed relating to the voter.

"The next most important amendment is on the question of canvassing the votes. That, by the proposed law, is systematized in such a manner that the canvass will be very much easier, and the duties of the canvasser will be lighter than they were under the old law. Last year's method was difficult to understand, and a variety of questions came up and delayed the canvassers, so that a great many of them became tired of the work and gave it up in disgust; but we think these difficulties have been obviated so that this year they will have much easier work if the bill goes through.

"In regard to the election of officials at the polls, the law has been changed in this respect: While last year's canvassers alone were exempt from jury duty, the present law proposes to exempt all election officials from jury duty. Heretofore we have had twelve officials at the polls in each district; this year the new law reduces the number to eight. Four inspectors will act as registrars on the four days of registration, and on the day of election they will act as inspectors of election and also as canvassers of the vote. Their duties therefore will be threefold, viz., register, inspector and canvasser.

"Another important feature will be the repeal of that portion of the previous law which permitted an 'oral count.' Under the old law any official or watcher was permitted to call for an oral count, and thereby unnecessarily obstruct the work of the canvassers. That portion of the law has been repealed. Also the 'personal description' on the days of registration. The previous law required that the height, weight, color of hair, visible marks on face, peculiarities of voice or distinct deformities of any kind be enumerated in the registry lists. That feature of the law had a tendency to perhaps cause numbers of people to refrain from being registered, and the operation of the law was found to be practically useless, since the returns showed that the registers had been unable, except in a very few instances, to accurately describe persons who applied for registration.

"The bill also provides that the polls be open from 6:30 to 5 all over the State, instead of from sunrise to sunset as heretofore.

From present indications it appears that the bill, as it stands now, will go through with flying colors. Senator Raines has complimented the Brooklyn Board most highly for its energy in searching out and endeavoring to correct the imperfect and obnoxious features of the old law.

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